

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

**401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850**

MEETING MINUTES

June 28, 2006

7:12 p.m.

ATTENDING

Holly Fechner
Deborah L. Horan
Shirley Johnson
Anne S. Kasper
Resa Levy
Martha Nguyen
Regina L. Oldak
Tedi S. Osias
Shelia C. Parker
Fauzia S. Rashid
Gary P. Smith
Yun Jung Yang

STAFF

Paula Rodgers
Tracy Stuger
Judith Vaughan-Prather
Margie Miller, Student Intern

ABSENT

Gloria A. Aparacio
Patricia E. Cornish
Elizabeth Keyes

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....Horan

President Horan called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Three additional items for discussion were added to the agenda under the following reports: Executive Committee, Staff Report, and New Business. Commissioner Oldak moved approval of the revised agenda; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and unanimously passed.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnson, duly seconded by Commissioner Levy and unanimously passed, the Minutes of May 24, 2006 were approved as submitted.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT.....Horan

A. New Commissioner Recruitment

The CFW selection committee submitted its recommendations to the County Executive for the appointment of two new commissioners to replace Commissioners Johnson and Smith whose terms will expire after the meeting. The recommendation also was to reappoint Commissioners Fechner, Osias, and Rashid to second terms. Appointments by the County Executive and confirmation by the County Council should take place prior to the Commission's July 26 meeting.

B. Planning Meeting Date and Time Reminder

Commissioners are reminded that the Annual Planning Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the CFW conference room. The Executive Committee will meet on August 9 to develop the planning meeting agenda.

C. New Reauthorization for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

The new reauthorization for VAWA requires that states will have to waive the requirement that women file a police report before getting access to a forensic exam (evidence collection kit) if they want to receive VAWA funds. This may require some monitoring as states must write the implementing regulations.

Commissioner Osias noted that this legislation also provided that women no longer lose their HUD subsidized housing if domestic violence takes place (currently, if there's violence of any kind in the home, the entire family is evicted and the victim is re-victimized).

D. President Horan announced that a Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) alert was recently issued to report that additional funds have been appropriated for services to kids in domestic violence families.

E. FY 07 Budget

When the CFW met on May 24, the budget was not absolutely final; it has now been formally approved with the additional funds reported at the May meeting. CFW received an increase in funding for the annual Women's Legislative Briefing, funding to increase the hours of a part-time position in the Counseling and Career Center, and funding for the Status of Women report and a part-time staff position in the Executive Director's office.

F. Montgomery County Small Business Conference

Katie Knowlin, Montgomery County's Minority/Female Business Affairs Manager is seeking business representatives to participate in an upcoming state conference. The

CFW Executive Committee nominated Commissioner Cornish, former Commissioner Regina Borkoski, of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, and the current president of Montgomery County's Women's Business Owners.

F. CFW Meetings

The CFW November meeting will take place on November 15 with CFW's First Vice President chairing that meeting because President Horan will be out of town. There will be no Executive Committee meeting in November. The December CFW meeting will take place on December 6 at 7 pm. Staff will send out an email or a calendar with the FY07 meeting dates.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No items to report.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commissioner Levy announced that she has a new job as Director of Development of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra at Strathmore Music Hall. She proposed that the CFW consider holding an event at Strathmore to commemorate the 35th anniversary of CFW. Commissioners reached consensus that Commissioner Levy should continue to explore this idea and present a plan to commissioners at the Annual Planning Meeting. Commissioner Parker said that her sorority (Delta Sigma Theta) has also worked closely with Strathmore Hall and she volunteered to work with Commissioner Levy on developing some ideas for the 35th CFW anniversary.

V. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather

- A. Legislative and Budget Specialist Tracy Stuger's last day with CFW will be August 4; she has accepted a position as Law Clerk with Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Marielsa Bernard. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather is hoping to have a new Legislative and Budget Specialist hired before Ms. Stuger leaves and is currently interviewing candidates for the position. In addition, staff will be scheduling interviews for the part-time Program Specialist position that was approved in the FY07 budget
- B. The 2006 Summer Computer Camps begin on July 17 with GURL Power Camp held at the Montgomery College Rockville campus and the Computer Programming Camp held on the Germantown campus. An additional GURL Power Camp session was opened in Takoma Park in order to accommodate the large number of girls who applied for scholarships. The second GURL Power session in Takoma Park camp begins on July 31.

Along with scholarship money donated by the Business and Professional Women and by Discovery Communications, 38 girls will receive scholarships from the CFW to attend the camps. Cynthia Rubenstein of the Passion for Learning program is also providing a number of girls with scholarships for camp.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather presented the first 2006 Technology and Girls (TAG) tee shirt to Commissioner Smith, whose term with the Commission concludes following this meeting. Commissioner Smith has chaired the TAG committee since 2000 and was instrumental in the creation of the committee.

C. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)

NACW's 37th Annual Business Meeting & Convention will take place July 19-22, 2006 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Commissioner Cornish and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather, who serve as Associate Directors of NACW, will present a workshop, "*Survival Strategies for Commissions for Women*" at the convention. Ms. Vaughan-Prather is also conducting an orientation session for new members. NACW memberships are up to 85 (from 62 in 2005). Ms. Vaughan-Prather said that the NACW President, Bonnie Coffey and other board members have worked hard in obtaining underwriters to sponsor the convention and various convention events.

D. Commissioner Cornish

Commissioners and staff were saddened to learn about the recent passing of Commissioner Cornish's husband, Norman, following a lengthy illness. An expression of condolence will be sent from the CFW.

VI. COMMITTEE REORTS

A. Policy and Legislation (PAL)Kasper

Commissioner Kasper said that there was nothing to report at this time.

MLAW – Commissioner Osias attended her first MLAW meeting as CFW's representative and reported on the following: MLAW is recruiting persons to serve on the Board of Directors. Plans are underway for the Fall Legislative Agenda Conference on October 15, from 12-4 pm at the American Federation of Teacher's Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. MLAW has adopted its budget for the year. Ms. Osias said that the Board plans to meet monthly.

B. Immigrant Women in Montgomery County (IWin)Yang

(a) Chocolate, Checks and Champagne - Commissioner Yang thanked commissioners who supported the June 11 Chocolate, Checks and Champagne event. The event was a huge success; over 66 people attended and \$4,555 was raised to date, approaching the committee's goal of \$5,000. Thank you letters have been mailed out to the donors. CFW will be collecting recipes to develop into a cookbook to give away at next year's event. Commissioner Yun expressed her appreciation to Administrative Specialist Paula Rodgers for all her hard work on the fundraiser.

(b) Media Campaign – The Committee's media outreach campaign to educate and inform the immigrant population about resources needed in the workplace, is going

very well. Committee members are participating in a variety of different medias (radio, television and print) to publicize the IWORK project in other languages.

(c) Domestic Workers Employment Guide – The English text was finalized and the draft of the guide was sent to the translator and to the County's Print Shop graphics designer.

(d) Domestic Workers Study – Commissioner Yang said that IWin members have received copies of the Domestic Workers study conducted by George Washington University students. If other commissioners would like to receive the report, please let Commissioner Yang know. The IWin Committee will meet on July 26 at 5:30 pm to go over the report because County Councilmember George Leventhal asked that CFW review it and recommend what the Council's next steps should be. The committee will provide recommendations by mid October.

C. Status of Women in Montgomery County (SWIM)

The SWIM Committee will next meet on June 29 to review the second draft of the Economic section.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Interagency Fair Housing Committee

Commissioners Johnson announced that the Interagency Fair Housing Committee meeting will be on June 29 to begin preparing its annual report. A new CFW liaison to the committee will be designated at the CFW Planning Meeting on August 30, since Ms. Johnson's term on CFW concludes this evening. President Horan thanked Commissioner Johnson for serving as CFW's representative for so many years.

B. Women's Fair Committee

Commissioner Levy announced that she will be unable to continue to serve as the CFW representative on the Women's Fair Committee. A new CFW liaison to the committee will be designated at the CFW Planning Meeting on August 30.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Commissioner Oldak distributed information about the Excellence in the Arts and Humanities Awards. The awards are sponsored by the Executive's Ball for the Benefit of the Arts and Humanities and the deadline for submitting nominations is July 21, 2006. This year's Executive's Ball will be held December 4, 2006.

B. Commissioner Fauzia Najm announced that she recently became a United States citizen and she officially changed her name to Fauzia S. Rashid.

IX. CFW PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.....1st Vice President Oldak

This portion of the meeting was convened by 1st Vice President Oldak, who announced that President Horan submitted an intention to run for the office of CFW President for the next year. Hearing no nominations from the floor, Vice President Oldak moved Ms. Horan's election as CFW President for 2006-2007, by acclamation. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

X. THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO COMMISSIONERS JOHNSON AND SMITH

President Horan personally thanked Commissioners Johnson and Smith, both whom are completing their terms this evening, for their many years of service and dedicating many hours to the Commission and its work. Certificates of Appreciation from County Executive Douglas Duncan were presented to the Ms. Johnson and Smith. The certificates read as follows:

Shirley L. Johnson

In Recognition and Appreciation of your dedicated service on the Commission for Women (July 2000 to June 2006), serving on the Technology and Girls Committee and the Policy and Legislation Committee.

Gary P. Smith

In Recognition and Appreciation of your dedicated service on the Commission for Women (July 2000 to June 2006), serving as Chair of the Technology and Girls Committee.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather also commented on the many contributions of both commissioners over the years to the priorities of CFW; including Mr. Smith's recognizing the gap of girls versus boys in the information and technology field and bringing that issue to the attention of CFW and educators. Ms. Johnson's contributions include her work on so many committees and her attention to housing issues in the county.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**